



Child Fatality Report Release of Information to the Public

Person ID: 96291469

County of Child's Residence: MONTGOMERY

Gender: Female

Age: 1 Year(s) 3 Month(s)

Date of Death: 09/14/2018

On the date of the fatality, the child was not in DFPS conservatorship and was living with the child's parent, a managing conservator, a legal guardian or other person entitled to the child's possession.

Child's Name: Hatherley, Cecilia

Current Report(s) of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 09/14/2018

Summary of Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The agency received a report that the deceased child's mother brought the deceased child to the emergency room in a car seat. The nurses noticed the child was pulseless, not breathing, pale and cold to the touch. It was confirmed that the child was deceased. The child's mother reported that the child was fine the night before and when she woke up the child was in the same condition as when she was brought to the hospital. The child was examined in the trauma room. When the child's diaper was removed, the groin area and both thighs were blistered, raw, bleeding and red. It looked as if the child had been in a diaper for a while. The report stated the child had extensive bruising to the torso and all extremities.

A subsequent referral was received that the deceased child's mother took the deceased child to the hospital and said she believed the child was dead. It was reported that the child had burns on her body. The mother changed the child's diaper and bathed the child before taking her to the hospital.

Investigation Findings:

The deceased child's mother stated on the day of the child's death that she went to the room to wake the child and noticed that the bed sheet was over the child. The mother stated that she pulled the sheet back and noticed that the child's eyes were glazed and fixed. The mother stated she tried rubbing the child's chest and putting her in warm water to wake her. The mother stated that she called out to her family friend and then transported the child to the hospital. The mother stated she was the only caregiver to the child and denied harming the child. The mother then refused to speak any more without her lawyer. The family's home was observed to be full of filth, dirty diapers, moldy food, and smelled of urine. The mother was asked to drug test however she refused. The mother's family friend stated that he heard the mother screaming. The family friend confirmed that he spent the night and denied being a caregiver for the child. He reported he observed the child and transported the child and mother to the hospital and denied any concerns about the mother. The investigator observed that the surviving twin siblings had a foul odor to them. The child's stepfather stated he works and his wife cares for the children. He was unable to explain the injuries found on the child. The child's stepfather reported that he is always at work and he has concerns with his wife cleaning up the house. Collaterals and the child's biological father reported concerns with the mother previously using drugs. The three year old twins and eight year old surviving siblings were admitted to the hospital due to their physical condition of smelling badly at the hospital. The siblings were discharged later the same day. The surviving siblings were forensically interviewed and made no outcry regarding the death. The eight year old sibling did report that the home was messy. The stepfather was drug tested via UA and Hair follicle and the results were negative. The preliminary autopsy concluded that the child died from immersion burns to the buttocks, genitalia, bilateral upper legs and malnutrition. According to law enforcement, the child's mother has been charged with injury to a child and endangerment to a child related to the deceased child. She has also been charged with endangerment to a child related to the surviving twin siblings.

The allegations of physical abuse, and physical neglect of the deceased child by the child's mother were confirmed. The mother places herself as being the only caregiver to the child. The preliminary autopsy concluded that the deceased child died from immersion burns to the buttocks, genitalia, bilateral upper legs and malnutrition. The investigator observed the home in which the deceased child and her family were living in to be full of filth, dirty diapers, moldy food, and smelled of urine.

The allegations of neglectful supervision and physical neglect of the deceased child and her siblings by the child's mother and father were confirmed. The investigator observed the home to be full of filth, dirty diapers, moldy food, and smelled of urine. When the child died, the stepfather was away at work but he had been home several days prior to her death. The stepfather expressed that he continuously came home to the filth of the home environment but never placed the children out of the home.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

09/14/2018 SDM Safety Assessment: Initial - Safe with plan

09/21/2018 SDM Risk Assessment - Very High

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Other Services:

Drug or alcohol abuse testing or treatment

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The stepfather removed the children from the family home and is protective of the children from the mother. A family team meeting was held and the stepfather agreed to Family Based Safety Services.

If one or more children were previously removed from the home, for each conservatorship episode, summarize dates of conservatorship and type of placement at the end of conservatorship:

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 06/03/2016

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The agency received a report that the deceased child's mother uses cocaine and marijuana daily. It is reported that the child's mother uses large amounts of cocaine to the point where she is incoherent and cannot speak. The child's mother will either stay awake or sleep all day. The child's mother will leave the one year old twin siblings in their cribs for hours at a time while she sleeps and will not get up when she hears them crying. The child's five year old sibling is left to watch television and will go outside without adult supervision. The five year old was outside unsupervised the week before and was taken to the hospital because it was thought his arm was broken. The home is filthy and the child's mother leaves her cocaine accessible to the children.

Investigation Findings:

The child's mother denied using marijuana and cocaine daily. She stated that she takes care of her children every day. The child's mother denied having an illness. The child's mother denied all the allegations. The child's mother confirmed the five year old sibling jumped off the gate at a neighbor's home and hurt himself, but she said she was in the backyard to see when this happened. The home environment was observed and there were no concerns. The home was clean. The child's siblings were observed by the investigator and no concerns were noted. The child's stepfather denied the allegations and stated that he has no concerns with the mother caring for the children. The child's mother and stepfather were drug tested and the results were negative. The child's mother refused to complete a re-test of the drug test. The child's stepfather completed a re-test of the drug test due to there being a mix-up at the facility and the results were negative. The child's stepfather and siblings spent a week at the paternal uncle and aunt's house and the child's siblings were taken to Oklahoma to be placed in the care of the siblings' paternal grandparents with a power of attorney for the grandparents. Personal and professional collaterals reported no concerns with the care of the child's siblings by the child's mother and stepfather.

The allegations of neglectful supervision and physical neglect of the deceased child's one year old twin siblings and five year old sibling by the child's mother and stepfather were not confirmed. The child's mother and stepfather denied the allegations. The child's mother and stepfather were drug tested and the results were negative. The home environment was observed to be clean.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

06/17/2016 SDM Safety Assessment: Initial-Safe

10/25/2016 SDM Safety Assessment: Reassessment-Safe

11/08/2016 SDM Safety Assessment: Reassessment-Safe with plan

11/14/2016 SDM Safety Assessment: Case Closure-Safe with plan

12/12/2016 SDM Safety Assessment: Case Closure-Safe

10/27/2016 SDM Risk Assessment: Moderate

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**Case Action:****Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:****Other Services:**

Legal services.

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

The child's stepfather and siblings spent the week at the paternal uncle and aunt's home and the siblings were then taken to Oklahoma to be placed in the care of their paternal grandparents with a power of attorney.

Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s): 08/14/2014

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

The agency received a report that the deceased child's mother was using marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamines, and drinking alcohol. The mother's drug use may result in her being unable to provide proper supervision for the child's three year old sibling. The home environment is reported to be dirty and may pose a threat to the three year old sibling's health and safety.

Investigation Findings:

The child's mother reported that the report was made out of spite by someone she knew. The mother stated that she did smoke marijuana before she found out she was pregnant. The mother stated that the three year old sibling was in the care of his father when she smoked and she never smoked in the home. The mother also admitted that she tried cocaine three times. The mother stated that her military identification card expired so she had to get an up to date card to get her tri-care insurance. She reported that she is currently pregnant with twins and is getting prenatal care through the HOPE Pregnancy Center. The mother had a picture of the ultrasound of the twins. The child's mother denied the allegations. The child's mother submitted to a drug test and the results were negative. The child's three year old sibling appeared well cared for. The sibling would not comply with being interviewed. At the close of the investigation, the child's mother got an updated military identification card and attended one prenatal appointment and scheduled another appointment for a future date.

The investigator observed the home environment to be clean with no feces or rotten food.

The allegations of neglectful supervision and physical neglect of the deceased child's three year old sibling by the child's mother and stepfather were not confirmed. The home environment was observed to be clean with no feces or rotten food. The mother admitted she smoked marijuana before she found out she was pregnant. The mother also admitted to trying cocaine three times. The mother submitted to an instant swab and a urinalysis drug test and the results were negative for both.

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

08/21/2014 Safety Assessment: Safe / No Safety Plan Needed

08/27/2014 Risk Assessment:

Area of Concern - Child Vulnerability

Area of Concern - Caregiver Capability

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:**Case Action:**

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

none

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Medical collaterals were set up to monitor.

Other Previous Report of Abuse/Neglect:

Intake Date(s):

Summary of Previous Allegation(s)/Investigation:

Investigation Findings:

Safety and Risk Assessment Factors Identified:

Case Action:

Services and Referrals Provided to the Family:

Other Services:

Other Actions Taken to Mitigate Risk:

Note: This report was prepared on 07/15/2019 and does not include corrections or updates, if any, that may be subsequently made to DFPS data on or after the date this report was prepared.